



**Edward M. Biggers, Jr.** was born in White Sulphur Springs, WV, in 1960. He and his siblings moved to Talcott, WV in 1967. Ed graduated from Talcott High School in 1979. In June of that year Ed joined the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and worked out of the Lewisburg Field Office as a GS-2. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from West Virginia University in 1983. The SCS hired him permanently as a contract specialist upon graduation and placed him in the Morgantown State Office.

In 1985, he received a promotion, moved with the SCS to Lexington KY; and then was promoted back to the Morgantown WV office in 1988. Since 1989, Ed has been promoted and moved through multiple positions and states with SCS including New Mexico, New York, and Colorado. In 1995 Ed earned a Master's of Public Administration degree from Syracuse University and landed in the National Office in Washington D.C., and was named the Head of the Contracting Activity (HCAD) for the next 13 years. He held the title longer than any other person in the agency's history. His last job in the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly the SCS) was as the Division Director for Procurement & Property Strategy. Ed [expects to] retire from this position in May 1017. He is a Life Member of the Professional Black NRCS Employee's Association.

Over the years he received many awards in recognition of his successful 37 year career in natural resources conservation. However the recognition he cherishes the most are when local citizens said "thank you" for helping us to restart our lives after disaster events like the 1985 flood in Pence Springs, WV or the 1993 mudslides in Tully NY or Hurricane Katrina in 2005, or even in the eastern KY floods in 2015. Ed's passion for helping hurting people comes from growing up in Summers County, learning how the good folks invested their lives in each other and aspiring to do the same. The last 20 plus years of his career has been devoted to writing, awarding and administering Federal grants and financial assistance to nonprofit organizations, governments, universities, American Indian Tribes, and individuals. These are folks who work on private farm lands and local public lands to use our soil, water, air, plant and animal resources in sustainable ways for the good of us all. Much of this money also goes to help pay for college educations of students studying and conducting research in these natural resources related endeavors.

Ed is married to his best friend, Robin Persinger (from Pence Springs) and together after 33 years have 4 children and 4 grandchildren. They reside in Fredericksburg, VA.